<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1 through 7, 11, 12, 16, 18 through 24, and 27 are now pending in the application. In order to place the present application in better condition for allowance, Claims 8 through 10, 13, 14, and 15 are herein canceled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8-10, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 29,505,682. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8-10, 13, and 15 have been herein canceled, rendering the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claims 8-10, 13, and 15 moot.

WITHDRAWN CLAIM

The Examiner noted Claim 14 was withdrawn as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

In order to place the present application in better condition for allowance, Claim 14 is herein canceled.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 1-7, 11, 12, 16, 18-24, and 27 are allowed. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indication of allowed subject matter.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: DECEMBEN 19 2006

By:

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PER/TJK/mmk